Community Service Learning Program

The Community Service Learning program enthusiastically encourages YO! Coaches to develop projects addressing the specific needs of the communities in which YO! participants reside. Community Service Learning (CSL) projects can serve as incredibly empowering events, imparting a connection to community as well as providing valuable job and life skills.
Youth learn by doing, and the hands-on nature of CSL projects present a unique arena in which to cultivate and reinforce the skills necessary for YO! participants to flourish.

Community Service Learning

- A **philosophy** that young people are a community's greatest resource and asset, and that it is the responsibility of each community to help young people become democratic citizens that are knowledgeable contributors to their community.

- A **community reform model** that utilizes community-school partnerships to revitalize education and directly involve youth and community members in increasing academic achievement while creating safe and civil learning environments in and out of school.

- A **teaching and learning method** that values active learning and experimentation as a context for mastering skills, and that continues to ask young people: ___*What*___ did you learn? ___*So What*___ does it mean? And ___*Now What*___ actions can you take with the knowledge you have gained?

COMMUNITY SERVICE: A project where youth provide a service to the community.	COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING: **A project combining youth analysis of an issue *with* community action.**
Examples: • Youth clean up a park • Youth volunteer at a homeless shelter • Youth tutor elementary students	Examples: • Park clean-up plus study of environment, waste • Shelter work plus study of poverty, homelessness • Tutoring plus study of social impacts of illiteracy

Goals:
- Increase awareness about giving back to the community
- Use service experiences as a vehicle for acquisition of skills and knowledge
  - Job preparation and readiness
- Placement of skilled youth in jobs and/or higher education
- Measurable outcomes
  - Reflective component, group discussion, journals